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MEMORANDUM

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Comment on Aviation Week and Space Technology Article,
"New Soviet Weapons Unveiled in Mideast"

1. Mr. Hotz's article which appeared in the March 24, 1975 "Aviation Week and Space Technology" reflects, for the most part, an accurate technical assessment of some of the Soviet equipment captured during the 1973 war. Much of his information was obviously derived from a "hands on" examination of various items while other elements were apparently provided by Israeli briefers.

2. Mr. Hotz's article is generally consistent with our own assessments

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3. There are some discrepancies, however, in certain technical assessments of the article. Not all of the equipment he examined is, in fact, amphibious and protected against chemical, biological, and radiation (CBR) contamination. The ZSU-23-4 mobile antiaircraft vehicle, for example, is a first line Soviet weapon, but is neither amphibious nor CBR protected. The mobile Sagger antitank guided missile simulator, while

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certainly a sophisticated piece of equipment is evidence of a technical drawback in Soviet equipment rather than a favorable reflection on Soviet capabilities. Unlike the US TOW, which is semiautomatically guided, the Sagger missile must be flown to its target with manual controls much like a small, remote controlled airplane. Using this method of guidance, it is much more difficult to acquire and to maintain proficiency, hence antitank units must continually train with simulators to remain effective.

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